CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for relaying signals from an alarm system control panel to a remote monitoring center, comprising:

means for receiving the signals from the alarm system control panel; and

means for selectively relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via either a wireless device or a landline connector, based on the presence of the wireless device.

2. A system for transmitting signals from an alarm system control panel to a remote monitoring center, comprising:

an intelligent interface for receiving the signals from the alarm system control panel, and for selectively relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via either a wireless device or a landline based on the presence of the wireless device, the intelligent interface comprising means for:

detecting that the wireless device is present; and

upon detecting that the wireless device is present, causing the intelligent interface to bypass the landline and to relay the signals to the monitoring center via the wireless device.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the intelligent interface further comprises means for receiving the wireless device.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the means for receiving the wireless device comprises a cradle.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the means for receiving the wireless device comprises a communications port.

6. The system of claim 2, wherein the means for detecting that the wireless device is present comprises a mechanical switching mechanism.

7. The system of claim 2, wherein the means for causing the intelligent interface to bypass the landline and to relay the signals to the monitoring center via the wireless device comprises a mechanical switching mechanism.

8. The system of claim 2, wherein the means for detecting that the wireless device is present comprises an electronic switching mechanism.

9. The system of claim 2, wherein the means for causing the intelligent interface to bypass the landline and to relay the signals to the monitoring center via the wireless device comprises an electronic switching mechanism.

10. The system of claim 2, further comprising a landline connector communicatively associated with a public switched telephone network, wherein if the detecting means fails to detect that the wireless device is present, the intelligent interface relays the signals to the remote monitoring center via the landline connector.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the landline connector is a two-wire voice jack.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the landline connector is an RJ31X jack.

13. The system of claim 2, wherein upon receiving the signals, the wireless device places a wireless call to the remote monitoring center and transmits the signals to the remote monitoring center over a wireless network.

14. The system of claim 2, wherein the intelligent interface further comprises a converter interposed between the alarm system control panel and the wireless device, the converter being for:

intercepting the signals that have been relayed to the wireless device;
converting the signals into digital signals; and
outputting the converted signals to the wireless device.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the converter is a digital signal processor (DSP).

16. A method for transmitting signals from an alarm system control panel to a remote monitoring center, comprising:

relaying the signals from the alarm system control panel to an intelligent interface;

determining whether a wireless device has been communicatively associated with the intelligent interface; and

if a wireless device has been communicatively associated with the intelligent interface, relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via a wireless device.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein if a wireless device has not been communicatively associated with the intelligent interface, relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via a landline.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein determining whether a wireless device has been communicatively associated with the intelligent interface comprises:

receiving the wireless device; and

detecting that the wireless device has been received.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein determining whether a wireless device has been communicatively associated with the intelligent interface further comprises determining whether the wireless device has sufficient signal strength to access a wireless network.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein determining whether a wireless device has been communicatively associated with the intelligent interface comprises determining whether the wireless device is sufficiently powered to place a wireless call.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein receiving the wireless device comprises receiving the wireless device in a cradle.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein receiving the wireless device comprises coupling the wireless device to a communications port.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via the wireless device comprises causing the intelligent interface to bypass the landline.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via the wireless device comprises converting the signals into digital signals and outputting the converted signals to the wireless device.

25. The method of claim 16, wherein relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via a wireless device comprises breaking a circuit between the alarm system control panel and the landline and creating a circuit between the alarm system control panel and the wireless device.

26. The method of claim 16, wherein relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via a wireless device comprises mechanically breaking a circuit between the alarm system control panel and the landline and mechanically creating a circuit between the alarm system control panel and the wireless device.

27. The method of claim 16, wherein relaying the signals to the remote monitoring center via a wireless device comprises electronically breaking a circuit between the alarm system control panel and the landline and electronically creating a circuit between the alarm system control panel and the wireless device.

28. A method for switching a transmission path between an alarm system control panel to a remote monitoring center from a landline path to a wireless path, comprising the steps of:

detecting that the wireless device is present; and

switching the transmission path from a landline path to a wireless path based on the detecting step.

29. A method for switching a transmission path between an alarm system control panel to a remote monitoring center from a wireless path to a wireline path, comprising the steps of:

detecting that the wireless device is not present; and

switching the transmission path from a wireless path to a landline path based on the detecting step.